

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the indication in the Office Action dated October 15, 2004 that dependent claims 2-4, 8-10, 12-14, 16, and 18 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17, 19 and 20 are now pending, with claims 1, 7, 11, 15 and 17 being the only independent claims. Independent claims 1, 7, 11, 15 and 17 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claims 2, 8, 12, 16 and 18, respectively, which have been canceled. Since these claims were indicated to contain allowable subject matter, as noted previously, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 7, 11, 15 and 17, which are the only pending independent claims, are now in condition for allowance. The remaining claims all depend from these independent claims and are therefore allowable because the independent claims are allowable. No new matter has been added by way of this amendment. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

By 

Michael C. Stuart
Reg. No. 35,698
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

Dated: January 18, 2005